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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

KATO, et al.

Filed:

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For:

VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING

METHOD THEREFOR

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

January 22, 2001

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC 119 and 37 CFR 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2-225321, filed August 29, 1990.

The certified copy of the above-referred-to Japanese patent application was filed on August 29, 1991 in prior application Serial No. 07/751,951, filed August 29, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

Alan E. Schiavelli Registration No. 32,087

1300 North Seventeenth Street

Suite 1800

Arlington, VA 22209

Tel.: 703-312-6600

Fax.: 703-312-6666

AES/slk